

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
April 13, 2015

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Kegler, Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Shapiro
Excused: Wassmundt

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2015 meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2015 special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Kochenburger who abstained. Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2015 special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Kochenburger and Ms. Moran who abstained. Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2015 special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Kochenburger who abstained. Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2015 special meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2015/16 Budget

Christopher Paulhus, Middle Turnpike, spoke in support of the \$10,000 Veterans' Services grant in the budget.

Ray Haddad, Conantville Road, addressed the budget and urged the Council to consider additional cuts.

John Chandy, Max Felix Drive, urged support for the enrichment programs in the schools, especially the Mansfield Middle School robotics team.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, asked for clarification on the Fire and Emergency Services performance standards, the taxpayers who contribute to the Storrs Center Reserve Fund, and the participants and costs of the healthcare program.

Rochelle Marcus, Homestead Drive and Mansfield Middle School teacher, thanked the Council for their work and support in maintaining a level of educational excellence which attracts people to Town. She asked Councilors to visit the schools.

Doug Perkins, Storrs Road and employee of the Mansfield Middle School, read a letter from Silvia Dorado in support of the robotics program and asking the Council to include a line item for the program in the budget. (Statement attached) Mr. Perkins thanked the Council for their work and offered a case for supporting the school budget beyond what has been proposed. (Statement attached)

Chris Briere, Warrenville Road and member of the robotics program, commented that the program fosters innovation and a desire to constantly improve the world around them.

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, commented that the revaluation seems to be switching the tax burden from residential to businesses and offered kudos to the Public Works department for working to reduce overtime.

Alex Semenza, a Mansfield Middle School student and member of the robotics program, stated that he enjoys working with robotics and believes it is a way to shape the future. He asked the Council to fund the program.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, remarked that people always seem to want more programs from government and that Mansfield spends a lot to deliver a good school program. He asked that residents not be selfish and asked the Town Council to keep Mansfield affordable.

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, spoke to the Council's obligation to provide oversight and thanked Ms. Raymond for her efforts in the budget process.

Griffin Deans, Willowbrook Road resident and EOSmith student, commented that the robotics program at the Mansfield Middle School served as a catalyst for him to work harder as a student and that Mansfield has amazing schools which helps build a healthy Town.

Jack Champagne, Patriots Square resident and robotics program member, commented that the program helps students become the future engineers and programmers. He asked that the program be funded. (Statement attached)

Jonas Goemans requested the school budget be increased for many of the clubs since they are an investment in the future. He noted that in the robotics program all the schools work together to learn many life skills.

The public hearing closed at 8:20 p.m.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Cindy Dainton, Mansfield City Road, commented on the importance of the Council setting the tone for meetings which consequently sets the town for governance (Statement attached)

Gary Bent, Mansfield Hollow Road and member of Eastern Connecticut Green Energy, spoke to efforts to slow down global warming including concerns about the expansion of the Algonquin pipeline. Mr. Bent urged the Council to pass a resolution asking the state legislators to oppose its expansion through Mansfield. Mr. Bent asked those in attendance who support the resolution to stand.

Don Hoyle, Bassetts Bridge Road, commented that he has spent many hours on the Neighbor to Neighbor program conducting energy audits. He noted the efforts of Marty Fox on this important issue and urged passage of the resolution to stop the growth of the natural gas pipeline.

Pete Millman, Dog Lane, spoke in support of the petition and stated that the use of renewable energy is real and should be promoted. Mr. Millman noted this is an opportunity for the Town to make a difference.

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, stated the Town should help residents prepare for the changes the natural gas line will bring and suggested that residents contact their Congressmen.

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, asked that all bank accounts and signatories be online; requested that best value forms be available immediately; questioned under what authority does the Town Manager deny a request from a Council member; and asked how

many complaints have been filed with the Human Resources Department by Department Heads.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, offered kudos on the decreased energy costs; asked Public Works to look at the speed bumps on Baxter and Cedar Swamp Roads; and asked the Council to vote on whether to put the budget to referendum automatically.

Miriam Kurland, Wormwood Hill Road, urged passage of the resolution to stop the Algonquin pipeline noting that it will take local action to accomplish the goal. Ms. Kurland urged support for HB5279 and SB928 which would allow groups and municipalities to join together to go on the grid.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, commented that many environmentalist act as if it is a religion and are unencumbered by physics and economics.

Alicia Welch, Hillside Circle, thanked the Town Council for their hard work and expressed appreciation for their significant efforts to pass a responsible budget. Ms. Welch also commended the Council for bringing Storrs Center to fruition and noted that the Town is starting to see the tax revenue from the project.

Rob Stearns, Stearns Road, commented on the value of the herpetological specimens in the area; asked the Council to curtail the fragmentation of the Town; requested the budget be kept at a sustainable amount; and stated the civility starts with the Council.

V. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Chief Dave Dagon, Acting Town Manager, commented that due to the absence of the Town Manager there would be no Town Manager's Report.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

No comments offered

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. Department of Parks and Recreation Update

Director of Parks and Recreation Curt Vincente offered an update on the department's missions, services, participation levels and technological advances.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

3. Mansfield Public Library Update

Director of Library Services Leslie McDonough, accompanied by Snowflake, reviewed the department's efforts to provide life-long learning for residents. Council members discussed the impact of the proposed cuts in the Governor's budget to the regional sharing efforts of libraries and the physical condition of the library.

4. Proclamation in Honor of Earth day

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation in Honor of Earth Day 2015. The motion passed unanimously.
(Proclamation attached)

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Kochenburger, Chair of the Committee on Committees offered the following recommendations for appointments to the Council:

The reappointments of Brian Krystof, Carol Enright and Richard Norgaard to the Beautification Committee for terms ending 6/30/2017

The reappointment of Michael Kurland to the Emergency Management Committee for a term ending 10/31/2017

The reappointment of Lisa Young to the Mansfield Advocates for Children for a term ending 6/30/2017

The reappointments of Kim Bova, David Vaughan, Prescott Powers and Thomas Bruhn to the Arts Advisory Committee for terms ending 3/1/2017.

The motion to approve passed unanimously.

X. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

5. Petition to Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion

6. J. Beck (03-19-15)

7. H. Marcy (03-31-15)

8. J. Sgro (03-23-15) 49

9. A. Smith (03-23-15)

10. M. Kirk re: UConn Master Plan

11. State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management re: Intertown Capital Equipment Purchase Incentive Program

12. Tennett Tree Service, Inc. re: Removal of Trees

13. UConn Landfill, Long-term Monitoring Report (with tables) (www.MansfieldCT.org)

14. Mansfield Minute – April 2015

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Ms. Moran requested the submitted petition to stop the Algonquin pipeline expansion be added to the next agenda.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

April 13, 2015